

1 **In the Claims:**

2 Please amend claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11-14 and 22-25 and substitute the amended
3 claims for prior pending claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11-14 and 22-25, respectively.

4 Please cancel claims 2, 8, 10 and 17-19.

5 Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11-16 and 20-25 are pending and are listed following:
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1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

storing a computer application program in a first logical directory of one or more computer-readable media;

storing a first version of a shared component in the first logical directory [one or more computer-readable media] for execution with the computer application program on a computer system that stores at least a second version of the shared component in a second logical directory of the one or more computer-readable media, wherein the first component is a functional component of the computer application program that is compatible therewith; and

wherein [establishing a logical relationship between] the computer application program [and the first version of the shared component so that the application uses] is configured to use the first version of the shared component and not the second version of the shared component when the computer application program is executed on the computer system.

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2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising storing a reference to an indicator in the first logical directory [where the computer application program and the first version of the shared resource are referenced], the indicator indicating to the computer application that the first version of the shared resource referenced by the indicator [is referenced] is located in the first logical directory [where the computer application program is referenced].

1 4. (Currently Amended) One or more computer readable media[,
2 comprising:] containing computer-executable instructions that, when executed on a
3 computer, perform the following steps:

4 [computer-executable instructions for] storing an application in a first
5 directory of a computer system;

6 [computer-executable instructions for] storing a local version of a shared
7 program component in the first directory; and

8 [computer-executable instructions for] installing a file that indicates to the
9 application that the application should utilize the local version of the shared
10 program component without regard for a second version of a shared program
11 component stored in a second directory of the computer system; and[other versions
12 of the stored program component that are present on the computer system]

13 wherein the local version of the shared component is a functional
14 component of the application that is compatible therewith.

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16 5. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

17 calling a shared component in a computer system;

18 detecting a local file that indicates the presence of a locally-stored version
19 of the shared component, the local file being a different file than the shared
20 component itself; and

21 in response to detecting the local file, utilizing the locally-stored version of
22 the shared component that is stored in a first directory of the computer system
23 instead of a global version of the shared component present in a second directory
24 of the computer system.

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1 6. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 5, further
2 comprising searching for the local file when the shared component is called and, if
3 the local file is not found, utilizing [a] the global version of the shared component.

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5 7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the local file is an
6 empty file.

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8 8. (Canceled)

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10 9. (Currently Amended) One or more computer readable media containing
11 computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a computer, perform the
12 following steps:

13 storing a computer application program in a first directory of a computer
14 system that maintains a multiple-level directory structure;

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15 storing a first version of a shared component in the [computer system] first
16 directory for execution with the computer application program on the computer
17 system, the computer system storing at least a second version of the shared
18 component in a second directly of the computer system; and

19 wherein the computer application program is configured to utilize the first
20 version of the shared component and not the second version of the shared
21 component when the computer application program is executed on the computer.

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2 10. (Canceled)

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4 11. (Currently Amended) The one or more computer readable media
5 [medium] as recited in claim 9, the computer-executing instructions further
6 performing the step of storing a file in the first directory of [on] the computer
7 system that indicates [the presence of] the first version of the shared component is
8 stored in the first directory.

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10 12. (Currently Amended) The one or more computer readable media
11 [medium] as recited in claim 9, wherein the shared component stored by the
12 computer-executable instructions is a component object model (COM) component.

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14 13. (Currently Amended) The one or more computer readable media
15 [medium] as recited in claim 9, wherein the shared component stored by the
16 computer-executable instructions is a dynamic-link library (DLL) component.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:
2 memory divided into a plurality of discrete memory partitions;
3 an [a first] application program stored in a first memory partition;
4 a first version of a shared component stored in [a second] the first memory
5 partition, the first version of the shared component useable by the [at least a
6 second] application program;

7 a second version of the shared component stored in a second [the first]
8 memory partition;

9 an indicator stored in the first memory partition that, when present,
10 indicates the existence of the first [second] version of the shared component in the
11 first memory partition; and

12 wherein the [first] application utilizes the first [second] version of the
13 shared component if the indicator is present.

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15 15. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 14, wherein the
16 indicator includes a file having a name conforming to a pre-defined type.

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18 16. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 15, wherein the file is
19 an empty file.

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21 17. (Canceled)

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23 18. (Canceled)

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25 19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The computer system as recited in claim 14, wherein the shared component is a component object model (COM) component.

21. (Original) The computer system as recited in claim 14, wherein the shared component is a dynamic-link library (DLL) component.

22. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media containing a [A] directory tree data structure having multiple directories [stored on one or more computer-readable media], comprising:

a first directory that contains a pointer to a first version of a shared component useable by a plurality of computer programs;

a second directory that contains a pointer to an application program and a pointer to a second version of the shared component; and

wherein the application program utilizes the second version of the shared component when the application program calls the shared component.

23. (Currently Amended) The one or more computer-readable media [directory tree data structure] as recited in claim 22, wherein the second directory further includes an indicator that indicates the existence of the second version of the shared component.

24. (Currently Amended) The one or more computer-readable media directory tree data structure as recited in claim 23, wherein the indicator includes a pointer to a file having a name of a pre-defined type.

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25. (Currently Amended) The one or more computer-readable media directory tree data structure as recited in claim 22, wherein the shared component is a component object model (COM) component.